

American Crisis

Thomas Paine

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis shrink from the service of their Country; but he who stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has the right (not only to tax) but "to bind us in all cases whatsoever" and if being bound in that manner, is not Slavery then there is no such thing as Slavery upon this earth.

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